



## MAIN PLAZA

*The Heart of the City*

Private contributions joined public investment to make the vision of a redeveloped Main Plaza a reality. Local companies and foundations donated more than half the cost of revitalizing this community treasure.

Those private resources are bringing modern-day conveniences to the plaza. A \$2 million donation from the Tobin Endowment is providing funding for five interactive, ground-level fountains accentuated with lighting enhancements. Children and the young at heart will be able to splash through the fountains, which will be visually appealing and provide refreshing relief on a South Texas summer day.

A grant from AT&T is making Main Plaza Wi-Fi enabled, providing free high-speed Internet access to the public through an embedded wireless network. People with wireless card devices can sit in the park and eat lunch while surfing the Internet, gaming, or getting some much-needed work accomplished in a relaxed setting.

Other monetary donations are contributing to improvements in the plaza that will enhance daily life in a public setting, creating a highly desirable escape from the traffic and noise of urban life.



MAIN PLAZA, 1850. UTSA'S INSTITUTE OF TEXAN CULTURES, No. 073-0094, COURTESY OF MRS. WILLIAM OCHSE.

### A HISTORIC DISTRICT

Main Plaza, along with Military Plaza, comprise a historic district. The Main and Military Plaza Historic District is roughly bounded by the San Antonio River, East Nueva, Laredo, and Houston streets. Since the 18th Century, it has been the heart of the city. To this date, it remains the center of San Antonio's government.



Now a City-owned building, it houses City offices and the City Council Chamber, which retains the ornate decorations originally designed for the Frost National Bank. The chamber's main entrance fronts the west boundary of Main Plaza.

CENTER PHOTO: MAIN PLAZA, CA 1908. UTSA'S INSTITUTE OF TEXAN CULTURES, No. 075-1181, COURTESY OF SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY.



MAIN PLAZA, CA. 1902. UTSA'S INSTITUTE OF TEXAN CULTURES, No. 075-1120, COURTESY OF SAN ANTONIO CONSERVATION SOCIETY.

More information:

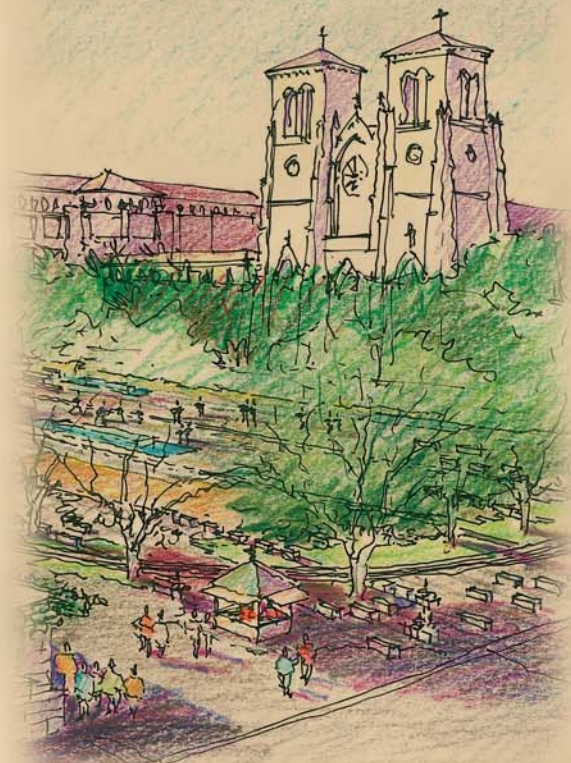
[www.sanantonio.gov/mainplaza](http://www.sanantonio.gov/mainplaza)  
207-8104 or 311



## MAIN PLAZA

*The Heart of the City*

**REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT**  
**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO**





Spring 2008 will usher in an exciting and much-anticipated new look for the heart of downtown San Antonio - Main Plaza. The historic central plaza is now being transformed into an oasis surrounded by bustling institutions of government, commerce and faith.

A redevelopment project currently underway, when complete, will captivate residents and visitors alike with lush, green landscaping. Pedestrians can stroll through shaded areas framed by existing and new trees and beautiful plants, or relax on distinctive stonework benches, which will offer a natural seating environment with fountain, vegetation and plaza views. The plaza will showcase five interactive fountains that can transition into stages for lively performances. Diners and picnickers can take advantage of artistically-designed food kiosks, seating and restrooms.

Architectural design of the plaza will weave stories of the center's history into its modern, renovated elements. The results will be a plaza full of cultural significance and artistic flavor that promises to be a gathering arena for many ages to come.

## *The Heart of the City*



This vibrant, public gathering place will incorporate modern enhancements that make the park more functional, such as free Wi-Fi service, while preserving the rich history of San Antonio. It also will provide direct access to the city's world-famous River Walk with a new entrance on the plaza's eastern edge.

Main Plaza will be a hub of activity as a backdrop for concerts, art shows and other special events. It will come alive as a central gathering spot during holidays and celebrations such as Fiesta, Good Friday activities, and Valentine's Day weddings.

When the curtain of night falls, the historic buildings that frame the plaza will be bathed in soft light. From sunrise to nightfall, this extraordinary area will pulsate with renewed energy.

Main Plaza – it's the Heart of the City.

Established in 1731 as the Villa de San Fernando by Spanish settlers of the Canary Islands, Main Plaza was the site of the first municipality in Texas. Some of the most significant moments in Texas and U.S. history took place here.

The infamous Battle of the Alamo had its beginnings in Main Plaza. In 1836, an army of Texian and Tejano volunteers successfully captured the plaza as they attempted to free Texas from Mexico. Mexican General Antonio López de Santa Anna would later stage his army in the city's center during the battle at the Texas mission as he recaptured control of San Antonio.

In 1861 General David Twiggs surrendered United States military posts and forces to Confederate forces in Main Plaza. As America was on the brink of Civil War, Colonel Robert E. Lee was confronted at a hotel bordering the plaza and run out of town after he refused to agree to secession.



GENERAL TWIGGS SURRENDERS. UTSA'S INSTITUTE OF TEXAN CULTURES, No. 072-0329, COPIED FROM HARPER'S WEEKLY MARCH 23, 1861.

Main Plaza remains one of only a few plazas in the nation that survives as a Spanish colonial plaza. Church, government and mercantile functions border it and nearby Military Plaza. The architecture of the buildings surrounding the city's center exemplifies San Antonio's growth and diversity over nearly three centuries.



FUTURE MAIN PLAZA FOOD KIOSKS